

Latvia

Advising Center Network

EducationUSA at RTU Riga Business School in Riga offers a full range of advising services to students from all over the country. American corners located in libraries of the two other largest cities, Daugavpils, and Liepaja serve as regional centers for the local student communities.

Recent Trends: US Study 12.6%

- ▶ Enrollments in US study from Latvia have increased slightly. Students are eager to pursue opportunities abroad. Factors include ease of EU mobility and increased tuition fees at home. Further, EducationUSA advisers have reached out to younger audiences for several years, resulting in more prepared US applicants.
- ▶ Popular fields of study: business, law, and a growing interest in communications, architecture, and biology.
- ▶ Common sports for student athletes: tennis, basketball, and ice-hockey.

Resource Links

EducationUSA advising center: www.educationusa.lv

Ministry of Education and Culture: www.izm.gov.lv

Education System Overview

	Secondary Education	Higher Education (Bachelor's Degree)
Language of instruction:	Latvian; bilingual schools offer education in Russian; two international schools in English	Latvian; limited number of programs available in English
Years of study required:	3 years (grades 10th-12th) 9 years (grades 1st-9th)	BA: 3-4 years — 120-160 credits MA: 1-2 years — 80 credits Ph.D.: 3 years — 120 credits
Grading system & US equivalent:	izcili (10) — outstanding teicami (9) — excellent ļoti labi (8) — very good labi (7) — good gandrīz labi (6) — almost good viduvēji (5) — satisfactory gandrīz viduvēji (4) — almost satisfactory neapmierinoši (1-3) — fail	(10) outstanding — A (9) excellent — A (8) very good — A (7) good — B (6) almost good — B (5) satisfactory — C (4) almost satisfactory — C (1-3) fail — F
Scholarship for US studies:		Fulbright — graduate scholarship

Upcoming Events 2008-2009

- ▶ Thematic seminars are developed throughout the year at EducationUSA in Riga, and will address topics such as financial aid, application strategies, US campus life, 2-year colleges, MBA programs as well as undergraduate and graduate group advising sessions.
- ▶ International Education Week 2008 — EducationUSA Latvia will host a large-scale event. US institutions are invited to take part in a dynamic outreach program.

Partnering with EducationUSA Latvia

US international education experts are welcome to contact the educational adviser in Latvia to discuss specific project ideas for 2008/09, and their involvement as guest speakers and/or co-organizers.

Country Contact

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Program Highlights 2007

Innovative Outreach

Two major regional outreach events were organized in collaboration with EducationUSA corners in Daugavpils and Liepaja and the Public Affairs Section of the US Embassy in September and October 2007. "EducationUSA Day" was held on November 14 and hosted by US Ambassador Catherine Todd Bailey. A large number of students from diverse regions of the country attended the event promoting study in the United States.



Working with US Institutions

Dr. Daina S. Eglitis (Assistant Professor of Sociology and International Affairs, George Washington University) gave a presentation on the US Higher Education System on EducationUSA Day on November 14, 2007.



Key EducationUSA Partners

- ▶ US Embassy, Public Affairs Section
- ▶ US Embassy, Consular Section
- ▶ RTU Riga Business School
- ▶ ERA-MORE Center for mobility of Latvian scientists
- ▶ Studentnet, student portal

Country Statistics	2006	2007
Number of students in the US:	382	430
Total number of center inquiries:	9,086	10,220